

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PER-05 CPR-01 SSC-01 SS-15
NSC-05 PA-02 ICA-20 /074 W
-----088360 112243Z /66

R 110415Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7239
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
GOVAMSAM PAGO PAGO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SUVA 0565

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, FJ
SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

REF: SUVA 0291

1. I PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS TO RATU SIR GEORGE CAKOBAU, THE
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF FIJI, AT 10:00 A.M. TODAY 11 APRIL.

2. EARLY DATE OF PRESENTATION HAD BEEN ARRANGED BY ACTING CHARGE
WITH GOF COOPERATION TO ENABLE ME TO ASSUME OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS
SOON AFTER MY ARRIVAL. I MADE IT A POINT TO THANK THE GOVERNOR
GENERAL FOR HIS COOPERATION. THE BRIEF CEREMONY WAS CONDUCTED
WITH DIGNITY AND FORMALITY. ACTING
DCM ATTENDED MEETING WITH RATU SIR GORGE CAKOBAU WHILE MRS. CONDON
AND MRS. CRIDER WERE RECEIVED BY ADI LADY CAKOBAU.

4. CONTRARY TO REFTEL DFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL SUGGESTED, IF
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POSSIBLE, THAT I MAKE A SHORT STATEMENT AFTER THE PRESENTATION
OF THE LETTER OF CREDENCE TO ENHANCE FORMALITY AND MEANINGFULNESS
OF OCCASION, SOMETHING WHICH THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND THE FOREIGN
OFFICE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO DO LATELY. I AGREED AND QUOTED BELOW
ARE THE STATEMENTS EXCHANGED.

5. CONVERSATION AFTER CEREMONY WAS MONOPOLIZED BY RATU SIR GEORGE

CAKOBANU'S REMINISCING ABOUT HIS WAR EFFORT ON THE STLTIT ISLANDS
AS CAPTAIN IN THE 3RD FIJIAN BATTALION AND BY COMMENTS ON THE
FAVORABLE MEMORIES FIJIAN HAVE RETAINED FROM THE PRESENCE IN THE
ISLANDS OF AMERICAN TROOPS DURING THE WAR.

6. AFTER JOINING THE LADIES THERE WAS A GROUP PICTURE TAKEN.

7. STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR CONDON.

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

I AM DELIGHTED AND HONOURED TO BE RECEIVED BY YOU TODAY AND TO BE
HERE IN SUVA AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF FIJI. I HAD LOOKED
FORWARD TO THIS DAY EVER SINCE I KNEW OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S
INTENTION TO APPOINT ME AS THE FIRST U.S. AMBASSADOR TO FIJI.

IN PREPARING FOR MY ASSIGNMENT TO FIJI I READ MANY BOOKS AND
SPOKE WITH MANY PEOPLE WHO HAD LIVED OR VISITED THE SOUTH PACIFIC
ISLANDS. I WAS STRUCK BY THE UNANIMITY WITH WHICH EVERYONE DES-
CRIBED FIJI AS THE PARADISE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC. I KNOW THAT
THIS JUDGEMENT WAS BASED NOT ONLY ON THE NATURAL
BEAUTY OF THE ISLANDS BUT ALSO ON THE O-ACIOUS#, NOBLE

PRIDE, AND HOSPITALITY OF THE PEOPLE OF FIJI.

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.
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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PER-05 CPR-01 SSC-01 SS-15
NSC-05 PA-02 ICA-20 /074 W
-----088280 112240Z /66
R 110415Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7240
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
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IN ADDITION TO THE WARM AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN FIJI AND THE U.S., THERE IS THE IMPORTANT FACT THAT THEY SHARE COMMON VALUES AND IDEALS. WE ARE BOTH CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACIES AND HAVE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AND A DEDICATION TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT MY ASSIGNMENT TO SUVA WILL CONTRIBUTE TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT EXIST ALREADY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

MRS. CONDON AND I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING PEOPLE IN FIJI FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE AND TO VISITING MANY ISLANDS. WE WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRADITIONS OF FIJI AND TO OBSERVE FIRST HAND THE IMPRESSIVE PROGRESS FIJI HAS BEEN MAKING ON THE ROAD TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, IT IS MY HAPPY DUTY TO CONVEY TO YOU ON THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION THE SINCERE BEST WISHES OF THE GOVERNMENT
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AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE CONTINUED PROSPERITY OF

THE PEOPLE OF FIJI AND CONTINUED CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

8. RESPONSE BY RATU SIR CAKOBAN.

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED FOR YOUR GENEROUS REMARKS AND EXPRESSIONS OF CORDIALITY AND FRIENDSHIP. WE IN FIJI APPRECIATE YOUR COUNTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THIS PART OF THE WORLD - PARTICULARLY DURING THE WAR YEARS WHERE I WAS PERSONALLY ASSOCIATED AND IN FACT FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH SOME OF YOUR SOLDIERS IN THE SOLOMONS.

LIKE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WE IN FIJI ARE GREAT RESPECTERS OF THE GREAT DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS: OF PARLIAMENT, OF SPEECH, OF JUSTICE, AND I AM SURE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE IN NO SMALL MEASURE TO THE GROWING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

YOUR GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO RAISE THE STATUS OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN FIJI TO A FULL AMBASSADOR AND PLENIPOTENTIARY STATUS HAS GREATLY GRATIFIED US, AND I WARMLY WELCOME YOU AND MRS. CONDON TO OUR SHORES AND WISH YOU BOTH GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS DURING YOUR TOUR OF DUTY IN FIJI.
CONDON

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